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TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN FUNDY NATIONAL PARK IN 1989

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly monitor national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in Fundy National Park in 1989 are discussed briefly below.

Spruce budworm - though a major pest for the past 20 years, has declined to the point where no defoliation was detected in the Park in 1989.

Spruce beetle, present in the Park for many years, killed spruce trees along the Shepody Road in 1989.

Sirococcus shoot blight is a disease known in the Maritimes since the early 1970s but has probably been present for much longer. The fungus infects and kills newly developed shoots. Heavy attack causes branch mortality, which results in crown dieback and tree mortality. The disease affects red pine and occasionally spruce and larch. Sirococcus shoot blight remains a problem on red pine in the Headquarters area of the Park where some of the red pine trees have suffered continuous infection over the years to such an extent that a few trees have died.

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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
P.O. Box 667, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E5
P.O. Box 190, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K2

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Balsam gall midge, which creates and feeds inside swollen galls on balsam fir needles, damaged 22% of the needles on balsam fir at Maple Grove Road.

Gypsy moth is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northern United States. It has recently been found in southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. In Fundy National Park, the adult pheromone trapping program continued in 1989 with assistance from Park staff. Nine of 25 traps captured male moths, however no other life stage was found in the Park. The hairy larvae are recognized by the five pairs of blue and six pairs of red dots along their back and visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel.

Some of the more common pests were as follows: **maple spindlegall mite** affected an average of 46% of sugar maple leaves; **maple leafcutter** caused light damage at Maple Grove Road and **sugar maple borer** damaged 4% of a sugar maple stand at Laverty Tower. Two of the more common pests of birch, both at Maple Grove Road, included the **birch leafroller** which damaged 18% of leaves of white birch and yellow birch and **black leaf blister** which infected yellow birch to light damage levels. Leaf browning of white birch, of unknown cause, was noted throughout much of the Park at trace and light levels, with some trees moderately damaged along Route 114, between Park Headquarters and the Shepody Road.

Other insects of interest - **American dagger moth, prominent moth, maple spanworm,** and the **maple trumpet skeletonizer** were present on sugar maple. **Pepper-and-salt moth** and **leafroller moths** were observed on yellow birch, while **ambermarked birch leafminer** and **leafroller moths** were noted on white birch.

J. Regis Cormier
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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